(3) THE MADRAS PUBLIC LIBRARIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954.

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras Public Libraries (Amendment) Bill [a], 1954 and move—

'*That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.*'

" Sir, this Bill is a very simple and innocuous one. As the Act stands at present, any gift made to a local Library has to be accepted only after the permission of Government is obtained. This leads to difficulties and delays. That is the reason why I have brought in this amending Bill to say that the Director of Public Instruction be authorized to give that sanction. I am sure hon. Members will readily agree to this amending Bill being passed."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The motion is—

' That the Madras Public Libraries (Amendment) Bill, 1954, be taken into consideration at once.' "

* SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the Hon. Minister for Education that this Bill which he has moved on the floor of this House is a very simple and innocuous one. I have no quarrel with the contents of this Bill.

" Sir, the Libraries Act was passed by the Legislature in 1948 and it has been in operation since then in our State. But not much good work has been done. As a member of the Local Library Authority, I have some experience as to how this Act is being worked. The Corporation in the City of Madras has been entrusted with the task of collecting the library cess from owners of houses in the City of Madras. The Corporation has collected not less than Rs. 15 lakhs and such a large amount is lying with the local library authority without being utilized properly. In their attempt to find a suitable building to house the library, the local authority was shunted from the Secretariat to the Public Works Department and from there to the Hon. Minister. After laborious efforts they got hold of a rented building in Mount Road. The Hon. Minister in charge of Education was pleased to declare the Library and the building open only recently.

" Why I am dilating on this point which has no reference to the Bill before the House is to point out to the House, how this Act is not being worked properly and how the Government are not giving proper assistance to the local library authority. If this is the way the library authority in the City is assisted to work the Act, I shudder to think how the district authorities will be working the Act. They do not have premises of their own. They do not have a library worth the name. Large sums of money collected under this cess are lying idle with the District Library authorities. There is a lacuna in the Act. The District Educational

[a] Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 19th May 1954.

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Officer of the district is made the Secretary of the local library authority. That officer is directly under the control of the Director of Public Instruction. This Secretary does not take orders from the local library authority composed of members elected by the District Board and the Corporation of Madras but from his boss, the Director of Public Instruction. In many cases, to our utter dismay and regret, we have found the Secretary flouting the suggestions made by the local authority. Often the members of the local library authority have been wondering why they were elected or nominated to the local library authority when even suggestions unanimously made by them are not given effect to by a petty servant of the Government, an official like the District Educational Officer who is under the control of the Director of Public Instruction. Even if he wants to purchase a broom or a small item of furniture, he must get the sanction of his official boss. This has been a very great difficulty in the successful working of the Act.

"The Hon. Minister for Education has been quick enough to appreciate the difficulty in accepting the gift of books and, therefore, has brought in this amendment, though this has not caused much difficulty in the working of the Act. After all, it may not take much time for the District Educational Officers to refer such cases to the Director of Public Instruction and get his sanction. However, the Government were careful enough to bring in this amendment. Without wasting the time of the House on this simple amendment, Government ought to have concentrated on removing the difficulties and pitfalls found in the actual working of the Act. I would request the Hon. Minister to come forward with a comprehensive Bill with the experience gained in the working of the Act to remedy the defects, and pitfalls."

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I am aware of the various defects pointed out by the hon. Member in the working of the Act. I am going into the matter and trying to find out how the defects could be remedied. But the particular difficulty sought to be remedied by the amending Bill came to the notice of the Government as it stood in the way of even accepting small gifts for which the parties had to go to the Government for sanction. I thought that this should be rectified immediately. That is the necessity for this small legislation being brought before the House. And this has given an opportunity to the hon. Member Sri Vinayakam to give vent to all his feelings with regard to the working of the Public Libraries Act, 1948. (Interruption.) This being a very small amending Bill, no further reply is needed on that point."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is— 4-30 p.m.

'That the Madras Public Libraries (Amendment) Bill, 1954, be taken into consideration at once.' "

The motion was put and carried.

Clause 2.

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, நான் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கும்படியான திருத்தம் கீழ்க்கண்ட மாதிரி—

> '*In the proposed clause (e) omit the words " with the previous sanction of the Director or the Government " and the words " with the previous sanction of the Government ".*'

" இந்தத் திருத்தத்தை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் அந்தக் க்ளாஸ் பின் வருமாறு வாசிக்கப்படும் :—

> '*Accept any gift of books or any other gift or endowment for any purpose connected with its activities.*"

அதாவது இந்தச் சர்க்கார் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கக்கூடிய திருத்தத்தின் பிரகாரம் கவர்மெண்டினிடத்தில் சாங்கஷனுக்குப் போகவேண்டியது இல்லை. சர்க்காரிடத்தில் போகவேண்டியதில்லை. **Director of Public Instruction** இடம் போனால்போதும் என்று சொல்லுகிறார். டைரக்டருடைய அனுமதி பெற்றால் போதும் என்று கூறப்படுகிறது. நான் கூறுவது என்னவென்றால் இப்பொழுது லைப்ரரிகளை சட்டபூர்வமாக நியமித்திருக்கிறார்கள். புத்தகங்கள் எதுவாக இருந்தபோதிலும்கூட அதைப்பற்றி கவலை இல்லை. அதற்கு வேண்டிய சட்டங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. எந்த புத்தகங்களை இந்த நாட்டில் படிக்கலாம், எந்தெந்த புத்தகங்களை மக்களை படிக்கச்சொல்லக்கூடாது என்பதையெல்லாம் தடை செய்வதற்கு சட்டங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. சமீபத்தில்கூட ப்ரஸ் சட்டம் திருத்தப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அப்படிப்பட்ட நிலையில் இவைகளைப்பெற்றுக்கொள்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் இல்லாமல் டைரெக்டர்கூட அனுமதி கொடுக்கவேண்டிய அவசியம் இல்லை. இந்த நாட்டு ஜனங்கள் என்ன படிக்கலாம் என்பதையும் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களுக்கு என்னென்ன புத்தகங்கள் வைக்கலாம் என்பதையும், **High school**-க்கு எந்த புத்தகங்களை வைக்கலாம் என்பதற்குத்தான் அவர் அனுமதி கொடுக்கலாம். மற்றவைகளுக்கு அவருடைய அனுமதி தேவையில்லை. மற்றபடி நாட்டில் சமுதாய பொருளாதார நிலை, அரசியல் நிலை முதலிய விஷயங்கள் ஜனங்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டும். அவைகள்தான் உபயோகமாக இருக்கும். அதற்கு சகல விதமான புத்தகங்களும் தேவை. அவைகளைப் பெறுவதற்கான உரிமைகளை டைரெக்டரிடம் கொடுக்காமல் லைப்ரெரிக்கே கொடுக்கவேண்டும். எந்த புத்தகம் வேண்டும் என்றாலும் வாங்கிக்கொள்ளலாம் என்ற உரிமையை லைப்ரரிகளிடமே கொடுத்து விடலாம் என்ற கருத்தில் இந்த திருத்தத்தை நான் பிரேரேபிக்கிறேன்."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" I second it, Sir."

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, evidently this amendment has been brought forward under a mistaken impression that the Government want to shut out even very good books including books published by Communists. That seems to be in the mind of the Leader of the Opposition. That is not the intention. After all, nowadays we have books which deal with very obscene and indecent matters and it is necessary to shut them out. As far as the purchase of books is concerned, we have laid down rules that only approved books should be purchased. As far as gifts are concerned, no such restriction can be placed and any book can be presented to the library, in which case there should be some authority to scrutinize whether they are objectionable books or books which can be read by the public and which can be placed in a public library. It is only for that purpose, a formal sanction of the Director is proposed in this Bill. There should be somebody to scrutinize the books and say : ' Yes, these books can be accepted and placed in the public library '. It is

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only from that point of view the Government have brought forward this amending Bill. Let us see how it works and if there is any defect, it can be remedied later on."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Is the Hon. Leader of the Opposition withdrawing his amendment? "

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" I am not withdrawing it."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

'In the proposed clause (*e*), *omit* the words " with the previous sanction of the Director or Government " and the words " with the previous sanction of the Government ".' "

The amendment was put and lost.

Clauses 2 and 1 were put and carried.

Preamble.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I beg to move the following amendment :—

> 'For *the words* " *It is hereby enacted as follows* ", substitute *the words* " *Be it enacted in the Fifth Year of our Republic as follows* ".' "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

'*For* the words " It is hereby enacted as follows ", *substitute* the words " Be it enacted in the Fifth Year of our Republic as follows ".' "

The amendment was put and carried.

The Preamble as amended was put and carried.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I move—

'*That the Bill as amended be passed into law.*' "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

'That the Madras Public Libraries (Amendment) Bill, 1954, as amended, be passed into law.' "

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

Discussion re *half-hour debate on assignment of lands to Harijans in Malabar.*

MR. SPEAKER :—" I wish to know whether we can have the half-hour debate now."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" We shall take it up on Monday as we have to attend the football match."

MR. SPEAKER :—" If the hon. Member wants it on Monday, I have no objection."